

THE HISTORY OF NAVY MUSIC

1798

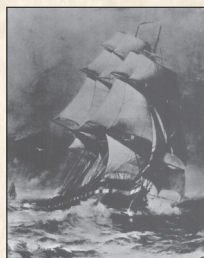
Two musicians, a fifer and a drummer, are put to sea on USS Ganges. This combination is used persistently throughout the Revolutionary War.



DID YOU KNOW?

Crews sang songs, or “sea chanties,” to set a rhythm for hoisting the sails of a ship in unison.

1825



USS Constitution

Ship’s bands become more popular in the mid-1820s. By 1825, USS Constitution has a 20-piece band.



1838

“Musician” becomes an official rating of the U.S. Navy.

1813



“Cyrus Tiffany in the Battle of Lake Erie, September 13, 1813,” mural by Martyl Schweig

At the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812, the courageous fifer Cyrus Tiffany shields Oliver Hazard Perry from heavy gunfire as they are forced to abandon USS Lawrence.

Alton Adams, Sr. becomes the first African-American Bandmaster in the Navy, leading the Navy Band of the Virgin Islands.

1917



Bandmaster Alton Adams, Sr., ca. 1922

1917



John Philip Sousa

the Navy, Sousa forms a band of 350 musicians that tours the U.S. and raises more than \$21 million for the war effort.

During World War I, John Philip Sousa, at the age of 62, is commissioned as a lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve after serving with the U.S. Marine Band and having a successful career as a civilian bandmaster. With

1930

The U.S. Navy Band performs the “Star-Spangled Banner” for the House Judiciary Committee. One year later, President Hoover signs the bill into law and the song becomes our National Anthem.

1935

The Navy School of Music is founded in Washington, D.C.

1956

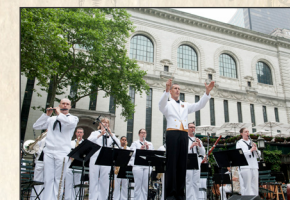
The “Sea Chanters,” the official chorus of the U.S. Navy, is established.



U.S. Navy Sea Chanters

TODAY

The Navy’s 11 bands annually perform at more than 6,000 events for live audiences exceeding 15 million people.



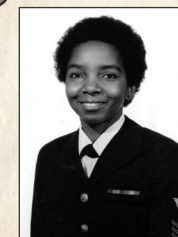
U.S. Navy Band, Northeast, New York City Fleet Week

1942



WAVES Drum and Bugle Corps

Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) is established to help support World War II efforts. The organization forms both a chorus and Drum and Bugle Corps.



Evangeline Bailey

1972

Evangeline Bailey becomes the first female rated musician of the Navy Band.

1908



Jose Contreras

President Theodore Roosevelt’s “Great White Fleet” parades through the harbor of Valparaiso, Chile where Chilean musician Jose Contreras stands witness to the dramatic show. Contreras is so moved by the review that he enlists as a Navy musician aboard USS Maryland within the year. Ten years later, he is promoted to the rank of bandmaster, the highest rank attainable by a musician at that time.

1961

During the Cold War, the Navy Band Sea Chanters arrive in West Berlin as part of a concerted diplomatic effort throughout the Eastern Bloc. They perform special Christmas concerts for American military personnel, German civilian groups, hospital patients, and radio broadcasts.



Salamansa, Cape Verde, Africa Partnership Station

TODAY

Around the world, Navy bands sound the song of freedom and serve as a shining representative of the United States Navy.